

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Corporate coercion of the airways dismantles the public's ability to receive objective, democratic information, causing our public stations to project what's good for the bottom line, not the people.

News used to be about serving the people through objective reporting, multi-sided perspectives and a strict integrity in regards to reporting and supporting established and emerging facts.

What we get today is opinion, one-sided reports that serve corporate interest, and blatant shying away from "inconvenient" or divergent factual evidence.

The disintegration of the American media's integrity is rapid, and we have fallen into a sad state in which many individuals must turn to the news websites of foreign nations in order to get a worldly, factual and diverse perspectives. This still does not solve the problem of local news, which has become no more than a vapid, thinly veiled distraction from the true facts of our communities.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.